

Claims:

1. A program selector and guide system, comprising:

one or more entertainment devices that provide content to a user;

a handheld unit that controls the operation of the one or more entertainment devices, the handheld unit further comprising means for receiving content directory information from a remote source, means for generating a content directory displayed on a display of the handheld unit that permits the user to select a particular piece of content for a particular entertainment device and means for controlling the particular entertainment device based on the selected piece of content to display the particular piece of content.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the handheld unit further comprises means for controlling one or more characteristics of the selected entertainment device, wherein the characteristics include one or more of turning the power on/off to the particular entertainment device and muting the particular entertainment device.

3. The system of Claim 2, wherein the entertainment devices comprises one or more sources of content including one or more of a television tuner, a satellite receiver, an AM/FM tuner, a CD player, a DVD player, a digital video recorder and a video cassette recorder.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the content directory remote source further comprises a satellite content schedule, a cable content schedule, a television schedule and one or more user content libraries.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the entertainment device comprises a CD player and wherein the content directory information comprises the songs on the CDs within the CD player and wherein the user selects a particular song on a particular CD in the CD player using the handheld device.

6. A handheld device, comprising:

means for receiving content directory information from a remote source;

3 means for generating a content directory displayed on a display of the handheld unit that  
4 permits the user to select a particular piece of content for a particular entertainment device; and

5 means for controlling the particular entertainment device based on the selected piece of  
6 content to display the particular piece of content.

1 7. The handheld unit of Claim 1 further comprising means for controlling one or  
2 more characteristics of the selected entertainment device, wherein the characteristics include one  
3 or more of turning the power on/off to the particular entertainment device and muting the  
4 particular entertainment device.

1 8. The handheld unit of Claim 7, wherein the entertainment devices comprises one  
2 or more sources of content including one or more of a television tuner, a satellite receiver, an  
3 AM/FM tuner, a CD player, a DVD player, a digital video recorder and a video cassette recorder.

1 9. The handheld unit of Claim 6, wherein the content directory remote source further  
2 comprises a satellite content schedule, a cable content schedule, a television schedule and one or  
3 more user content libraries.

1 10. The handheld unit of Claim 6, wherein the entertainment device comprises a CD  
2 player and wherein the content directory information comprises the songs on the CDs within the  
3 CD player and wherein the user selects a particular song on a particular CD in the CD player  
4 using the handheld device.

1 11. A method for selecting programs from one or more entertainment devices that  
2 provide content to a user, the method comprising:

3 controlling the operation of the one or more entertainment devices using a handheld  
4 device;

5 the controlling further comprising receiving content directory information from a remote  
6 source, generating a content directory displayed on a display of the handheld unit that permits the  
7 user to select a particular piece of content for a particular entertainment device and controlling

8 the particular entertainment device based on the selected piece of content to display the particular  
9 piece of content.

1 12. The method of Claim 11 further comprising controlling one or more  
2 characteristics of the selected entertainment device, wherein the characteristics include one or  
3 more of turning the power on/off to the particular entertainment device and muting the particular  
4 entertainment device.

1 13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the entertainment devices comprises one or  
2 more sources of content including one or more of a television tuner, a satellite receiver, an  
3 AM/FM tuner, a CD player, a DVD player, a digital video recorder and a video cassette recorder.

1 14. The method of Claim 11, wherein the content directory remote source further  
2 comprises a satellite content schedule, a cable content schedule, a television schedule and one or  
3 more user content libraries.

1 15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the entertainment device comprises a CD player  
2 and wherein the content directory information comprises the songs on the CDs within the CD  
3 player and wherein the user selects a particular song on a particular CD in the CD player using  
4 the handheld device.

1 16. A handheld device being adapted to be used as a program selector and guide and  
2 an entertainment device controller, the handheld device comprising:

3 means for receiving content directory information from a remote source;

4 means for generating a content directory displayed on a native display of the handheld  
5 unit that permits the user to select a particular piece of content for a particular entertainment  
6 device using the native controls of the handheld device; and

7 means for controlling the particular entertainment device using the native  
8 communications of the handheld device based on the selected piece of content to display the  
9 particular piece of content.

1           17.    The handheld unit of Claim 16 further comprising means for controlling one or  
2   more characteristics of the selected entertainment device, wherein the characteristics include one  
3   or more of turning the power on/off to the particular entertainment device and muting the  
4   particular entertainment device.

1           18.    The handheld unit of Claim 17, wherein the entertainment devices comprises one  
2   or more sources of content including one or more of a television tuner, a satellite receiver, an  
3   AM/FM tuner, a CD player, a DVD player, a digital video recorder and a video cassette recorder.

1           19.    The handheld unit of Claim 16, wherein the content directory remote source  
2   further comprises a satellite content schedule, a cable content schedule, a television schedule and  
3   one or more user content libraries.

1           20.    The handheld unit of Claim 16, wherein the entertainment device comprises a CD  
2   player and wherein the content directory information comprises the songs on the CDs within the  
3   CD player and wherein the user selects a particular song on a particular CD in the CD player  
4   using the handheld device.

1           21.    The handheld unit of Claim 16, wherein the native display of the handheld unit  
2   further comprises a touchscreen display.

1           22.    The handheld unit of Claim 21, wherein the native controls of the handheld unit  
2   further comprise one or more hardware buttons incorporated into the handheld unit that are  
3   repurposed in order to select a particular piece of content.

1           23.    The handheld unit of Claim 22, wherein the native communications of the  
2   handheld unit further comprises an infrared port for generating commands to control the  
3   entertainment devices.